

TYPES OF INSURANCE PLANS

If you do not receive health insurance through your employer, health insurance may be available directly from health insurers doing business in this state. This means it is up to you to find a private insurer. Seeking the assistance of a licensed health insurance agent may be helpful in determining the type of plan, and which policy, best meets your needs. The licensed agent can answer many of your questions and assist you in applying for health coverage. There are health benefit plans and limited health benefit plans offered. Below is a description of several different types of plans.

Health Benefit Plans are major medical health plans that can be purchased for yourself and/or your family. Major medical health insurance covers the expenses associated with comprehensive medical services including serious illness or hospitalization. *Major medical plans usually have a set amount, or deductible, for which the patient is responsible. Once that is paid, the plan covers most of the remaining cost of care, subject to co-pays or co-insurance paid by the insured.*

Limited Medical Benefit Plans or “Mini Meds” are health insurance plans that provide fewer benefits than a health benefit plan. These plans may be offered through employers and to individuals through trade associations. These plans may also be offered on an individual basis. Unlike comprehensive major medical insurance, many limited medical benefit plans pay a fixed dollar amount directly to the policyholder for health care services covered under the policy, but there may be other variations on how benefits are paid.

Limited Health Service Benefit Plans provide services for dental, vision, mental health, substance abuse, chiropractic, pharmaceutical, podiatric, or other such services. A limited health service benefit plan does not include hospital, medical, surgical, or emergency services except as these services are provided incidental to the plan. These plan designs may be used as either primary insurance or supplemental (gap) coverage.

Short Term Major Medical Plans are plans that are issued for less than 12 months in various intervals which offer benefits to cover some expenses of major illness and injury. There may be lifetime limits imposed.